Addressing Employment Needs Through Sector Partnerships: Case Studies from across the Federal Reserve’s Fourth District

Millions of people in the United States are unemployed, yet employers can’t fill open positions. Employers say they can’t find people with the right skills, while jobseekers say employers are not hiring. Sector-based partnerships—collaborations among employers, educational institutions, economic development groups, and nonprofits focused on a single industry—are a promising way to meet the needs of employers and jobseekers alike. In order to better understand how sector-based partnerships are formed, 3 Cleveland Fed researchers studied 5 sector-based initiatives in the District: one focused on healthcare; the second, information technology; the third, advanced manufacturing; the fourth, marine mechanics; and the fifth, retraining coal miners. Through interviews with employers, training providers, educators, and program administrators, this is what they learned.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's community development team conducts applied research, analyzes data and trends, provides technical assistance to organizations, and convenes meetings to bring together key players in community and economic development. The aim is to promote economic growth and financial stability, especially in low- and moderate-income areas, and to deepen the understanding of issues affecting communities.

Search a comprehensive collection of Federal Reserve community development resources related to affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, workforce development, and more at fedcommunities.org.

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